

Application No. 10/723,796
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A plasma cutting process for cutting an object material with a plasma arc generated from a plasma torch, said process comprising:

5 ~~wherein jetting a dross adhesion inhibitor for preventing~~
~~adhesion of dross generated by from~~ the plasma torch is jetted
onto a cutting start position of the object material.

2. (Original) The plasma cutting process according to claim 1, wherein the jetting of the dross adhesion inhibitor from the plasma torch is stopped during cutting of the object material with the plasma arc.

3. (Currently Amended) A plasma cutting machine ~~for cutting an object material with a plasma arc generated from a plasma torch,~~ comprising:

5 a plasma torch for generating a plasma arc for cutting an
object material; and

~~wherein the plasma torch includes jetting means, provided in the plasma torch, for jetting a dross adhesion inhibitor for preventing dross adhesion~~ onto a cutting start position of the object material.

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4. (Currently Amended) The plasma cutting machine according to claim 3, wherein ~~the jetting means is formed such that~~ a dross adhesion inhibitor supply flow path for ~~feeding~~ supplying the dross adhesion inhibitor is connected to an assist gas flow path in which an assist gas ~~for assisting cutting of the object material carried out with the plasma arc flows, after said assist gas being~~ jetted from the plasma torch along the plasma arc to assist in cutting of the object material by the plasma arc.

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5. (Currently Amended) The plasma cutting machine according to claim 3, wherein ~~the jetting means is formed such that~~ a dross adhesion inhibitor supply flow path for ~~feeding~~ supplying the dross adhesion inhibitor is connected to a plasma gas flow path in which a plasma gas used for forming the plasma arc flows.